

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-18 (Cancelled)

Claim 19 (New): A fence for use in a sheet feeding cassette, comprising:

a fence main body movably attached to the sheet feeding cassette;
a sheet pressing element protruding from the fence main body, the sheet pressing element being movable and configured to press against trailing edges of sheets;
a biasing device configured to bias the sheet pressing element; and
a bias force switching device configured to switch between a first condition in which a bias force of the biasing device is exerted on the sheet pressing element and a second condition in which the bias force of the biasing device is not exerted on the sheet pressing element.

Claim 20 (New): The fence according to claim 19, wherein the bias force switching device comprises:

a switch operation unit configured to switch between the first and second conditions;
and

a movable element configured to move the biasing device in accordance with a switching operation.

Claim 21 (New): The fence according to claim 19, further comprising:

an automatic returning device configured to automatically return the bias force switching device to the first condition from the second condition.

Claim 22 (New): The fence according to claim 19, wherein the bias force switching device is configured to switch the biasing device to exert the bias force by pushing the sheet feeding cassette into a first predetermined position, and to switch the biasing device not to exert the bias force by pulling out the sheet feeding cassette to a second predetermined position.

Claim 23 (New): The fence according to claim 19, further comprising:
a fixing device configured to fix the fence main body at any desired position in the sheet feeding cassette.

Claim 24 (New): The fence according to claim 23, further comprising:
a link device configured to substantially simultaneously link switching to the first condition with fixing of the fence main body and to substantially simultaneously link switching to second condition with unfixing of the fence main body.

Claim 25 (New): The fence according to claim 19, wherein the sheet pressing element is attached to the fence main body.

Claim 26 (New): The fence according to claim 19, wherein the sheet pressing element is integrally formed with the fence main body.

Claim 27 (New): The fence according to claim 19, wherein the biasing device comprises a plate spring configured to exert a bias force on the sheet pressing element.

Claim 28 (New): The fence according to claim 27, wherein the plate spring is integrally formed with the sheet pressing element.

Claim 29 (New): The fence according to claim 27, wherein the plate spring is attached to the fence main body.

Claim 30 (New): The fence according to claim 19, wherein the biasing device comprises a coil spring configured to exert a bias force on the sheet pressing element.

Claim 31 (New): A sheet feeding cassette, comprising:
a cassette main body configured to accommodate sheets;
a bottom plate that is provided at a bottom surface part of the cassette main body and is rotatable up and down while being biased upward; and
the fence according to one of claims 19 through 30.

Claim 32 (New): A sheet feeding device, comprising:
the sheet feeding cassette of claim 31; and
a sheet feeding member configured to feed the sheets accommodated in the cassette main body one by one.

Claim 33 (New): An image forming apparatus, comprising:
the sheet feeding device of claim 32; and
an image forming device configured to form an image on the sheet fed by the sheet feeding device.

Claim 34 (New): A fence for use in a sheet feeding cassette, comprising:
a fence main body movably attached to the sheet feeding cassette;
sheet pressing means for pressing against trailing edges of sheets;
biasing means for biasing the sheet pressing means; and
bias force switching means for switching between a first condition in which a bias force of the biasing means is exerted on the sheet pressing means and a second condition in which the bias force of the biasing means is not exerted on the sheet pressing means.

Claim 35 (New): The fence according to claim 34, further comprising:
a switch operation unit operated for switching between the first and second conditions; and
movable means for moving the biasing means in accordance with a switching operation at the switch operation unit to a biasing position, where the bias force of the biasing means is exerted on the sheet pressing means, and to a non-biasing position, where the bias force of the biasing means is not exerted on the sheet pressing means.

Claim 36 (New): The fence according to claim 34, further comprising:
automatic returning means for automatically returning the bias force switching means to the first condition from the second condition.

Claim 37 (New): The fence according to claim 34, further comprising:
fixing means for fixing the fence main body at any desired position in the sheet feeding cassette.

Claim 38 (New): The fence according to claim 37, further comprising:

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linking means for linking switching to the first condition with fixing of the fence main body by the fixing means and for linking switching to the second condition with unfixing of the fence main body by the fixing means.